

# Funding Support for Disabled Students

**This session is being recorded and will be sent out with the presentation slides following the event.**

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**There will be a poll at the beginning and end of the session please answer the couple of questions to help with improving our sessions.**



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# Who are Hepp?

## Higher Education Progression Partnership



We:

- provide impartial information about higher education and gaining higher level skills.
- funded by Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield.

# Kelly Self

Project Coordinator

Hepp

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# Overview

## Find out:

- what Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) is
- how to apply & the process
- eligibility to apply
- what benefits and support you may be eligible to receive and how you access
- bursaries and scholarships

# Jackie Reaney

**HE Disability Adviser**  
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# **Exploring the DSA (Disabled Students' Allowance)**

**As a crucial source of support for many disabled students in higher education**

# What is it?

- An academic budget, issued by the UK Government to cover a disabled student's individual support costs in university/ higher education;
- Set up in 1991;
- Delivered by UK student finance bodies – SFE, SFW, SFNI, SAAS
- It does not come as money – but as a mix of technical/ practical support;
- It is not means tested;
- It is not a benefit- it will not compromise any family benefits;
- It is not a loan – what you get is yours to keep!

# Who can apply?

- any student who has a diagnosis of something that will impact with how they study
- full time or part time (covering at least 25% of a full-time equivalent course)
- only for HE level 4 and upwards courses (not access course)
- any student who would be entitled to a government student loan

# What evidence is needed?

- SFE and other funding bodies insist on evidence from your GP/ NHS specialist or psychologist- (they have a form for the surgery/consultant to complete)
- they look for a clear diagnosis including how it affects you (lack of concentration/fatigue/ variable mood) but in terms for ADHD or Autism it can be a probable diagnosis or working diagnosis which can be accepted.
- hidden/unseen diagnoses are included (mental health issues)
- EHCP/SEN report is acceptable only for Autism
- dyslexia must be evidenced through a full diagnostic report by an accredited educational psychologist at secondary or college age

# What can your DSA provide you with?

- equipment: Assistive technology or software which would address a disability related need (i.e. not course related)
- ergonomic workstation – chair, footrest and keyboard
- one-to-one study skill coaching/mentor support/BSL support
- reimbursement of any disability related costs e.g. extra copying
- cost of regular/emergency taxi to attend

# Who decides what you will get?

- you will be authorised to make an appointment at an Assessment Centre to discuss your disability related needs
- equipment and technology will be demonstrated to you
- you will collaborate with the assessor to work out what would best fit the way you work and the course you are enrolling on
- a full report will be written and sent to SFE for approval

# When should you apply?

- you can apply at any time from application and even during the course
- if you switch to another higher education institution – your budget goes with you and can be added to, to match the new period of study
- processes can be slow – allow at least 3 months!
- new forms for September will come out end of February/March
- first – collect your disability related evidence and work with your higher education disability team.

# Sarah Lamb

**Disability Adviser**  
**Sheffield Hallam University**  
**E: [disability-support@shu.ac.uk](mailto:disability-support@shu.ac.uk)**



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# **Applying for DSA**

## **(Disabled Students Allowance)**

**What does it look like on Student Finance England account page?**

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION

### You might be able to get Disabled Students' Allowances

#### What you can get

DSAs can help with the costs of:

- having a person to give you additional support while you're studying
- specialist equipment
- travel, for example if you can't use public transport because of your disability
- other study related costs you have as a direct result of your disability

#### Computer equipment

DSAs may be able to pay for assistive software to help you while your study, for example a screen reader. If you don't have a computer, or the one you have can't run the software recommended for you, DSAs may help towards to costs of a new one. If you're applying for DSAs for the first time you'll have to pay £200 towards the costs of this new computer.

#### Repayment

DSAs don't have to be paid back.

Continue

### Do you want to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances?

**Yes, I want to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances**

You'll be able to apply for this once you've submitted your application for student finance.

**No, I don't want to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances**

Continue

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION – MY ACCOUNT

studentfinance<sup>england</sup>

Your profile   Your finance   Letters & emails   Logout

### Laura's account

Customer Reference Number:74494274186

EU nationals: Currently, new students in 2016/17 must prove they have been living in the UK for three years before their course start date in order to get living cost support from Student Finance England. [view more](#) [delete](#)

#### 1. 2017 / 2018 Full time MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY (INT) ▼ [Collapse](#)

**STATUS** APPLICATION SUBMITTED

##### Your to-do list



**1. Give us your valid UK passport details**

So we can check your identity, you need to give us your valid UK passport details.

[Enter passport details](#)

[Can't provide your passport details?](#)

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**2. Disabled Students' Allowances**

You have indicated that you want to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs).

[Start your application](#)

[Tell me more about the DSAs application process](#)

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION – WHAT TYPE OF DISABILITY

 **Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances**

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### What type of disability do you have?

To get DSAs your disability must meet the definition of a disability under the Equality Act 2010.

▼ [What is the Equality Act?](#)

The Equality Act 2010 has made it illegal for universities and colleges to discriminate against disabled students by treating them less favourably in admissions policies or the services they provide. Under the Act, universities and colleges must make reasonable adjustments so that students with disabilities are not at a substantial disadvantage compared to students who are not disabled.

This means that you can tell your university or college about your disability, long term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty in confidence to make sure you receive the support you need.

The Act applies to you if you have a physical, sensory or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, including education.

You'll be asked to send evidence of each disability you have, we'll give you more information about what you need to send once you have submitted your application.

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES continued

## ONLINE APPLICATION – WHAT TYPE OF DISABILITY

**Select all that apply**

- Physical disability  
For example you have a physical impairment or mobility issue, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- Blind / Partial Sight  
For example you are blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- Deaf / Partial Hearing  
For example you are deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
- Long term health condition  
For example you have a long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- Mental health condition  
For example you have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- Specific learning difficulty  
For example you have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- Autistic spectrum disorder  
For example you have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- Other

[Continue](#)

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION – CONSENT TO SHARE

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Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances

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### Consent to share

If you allow us to share information about your application for DSAs, both Student Finance England and your university or college can work together to make sure you get the support you need.

▼ [Do I have to share my information?](#)

You don't have to tell your university or college about your disability or give us permission to share information about your application for DSAs. However, this will mean they can't make reasonable adjustments to support you and it may delay the support you need.

**My DSAs Needs Assessor and Student Finance England may exchange information about my application for DSAs.**

▼ [What is a Needs Assessor?](#)

A Needs Assessor is a person who is trained to make recommendations about the additional support you need to fully participate on your course. They'll write a Needs Assessment to tell us about the support or equipment they recommend. Sharing information with them means we can discuss requests for support made in your Needs Assessment.

I agree   
  I don't agree

**My DSAs suppliers and Student Finance England may exchange information about my application for DSAs.**

**The disability service at my university or college and Student Finance England may exchange information about my application for DSAs.**

I agree   
  I don't agree

Your application will still be processed if you don't agree to share information. However, it may take longer for your support to be arranged and you'll have to coordinate with the disability service yourself.

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION – OPTIONAL INFORMATION

 **GOV.UK** Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances

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### Finally, do you want to tell us more about how your disability affects you while you're studying?

You can tell us anything about your disability and how it affects you that hasn't been covered in the application. This is optional and it won't affect the outcome of your application if you don't give us any additional information.

Yes  No

[Continue](#)

 **GOV.UK** Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances

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### Tell us more about how your disability affects you while you're studying

This is optional and it won't affect the outcome of your application if you don't give us any additional information.

[Continue](#)

# DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

## ONLINE APPLICATION – EVIDENCE AND SIGNATURE



### 2. Disabled Students' Allowances

You need to send us evidence of your disability.

For each specific learning difficulty you have, send us: A diagnostic report, written in accordance with the 2005 Specific Learning Difficulty Working Group Guidelines, from either a registered psychologist or a suitably qualified specialist teacher who holds a Specific Learning Difficulty Assessment Practicing Certificate.

You can email your evidence to [dsa\\_medical\\_evidence@slc.co.uk](mailto:dsa_medical_evidence@slc.co.uk), or you can send a photocopy of it to the address below. Please include your name and customer reference number or date of birth so that we know who it's from, and only send your medical evidence once unless we contact you to request further copies.

**If you've already sent us evidence of your disability you don't need to send it again. We'll contact you by post once we've processed your evidence.**

[Tell me more about the DSAs application process](#)

**DSA** Disabled Students' Allowance Disability Evidence Form **sfe**

**About this form**  
To get DSA a medical professional (for example, your GP) needs to provide information about your disability on this form.  
**Don't** complete this form if you have a specific learning difficulty. You need to send us a diagnostic report from a suitably qualified psychologist or specialist teacher instead.

**What you need to do**  
You need to complete your details in section 1.  
Then pass the form to the medical professional to complete, sign and date the declaration.  
Once they have completed the form, make sure you return it to the address on page 4.  
You should keep a copy of this form for your own records. You may require it later for your needs assessment.

**Section 1** Personal details

1.1 Customer Reference Number

1.2 Personal details

Title  
 Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms

Forename(s)

Surname

Date of birth (DDMMYYYY)

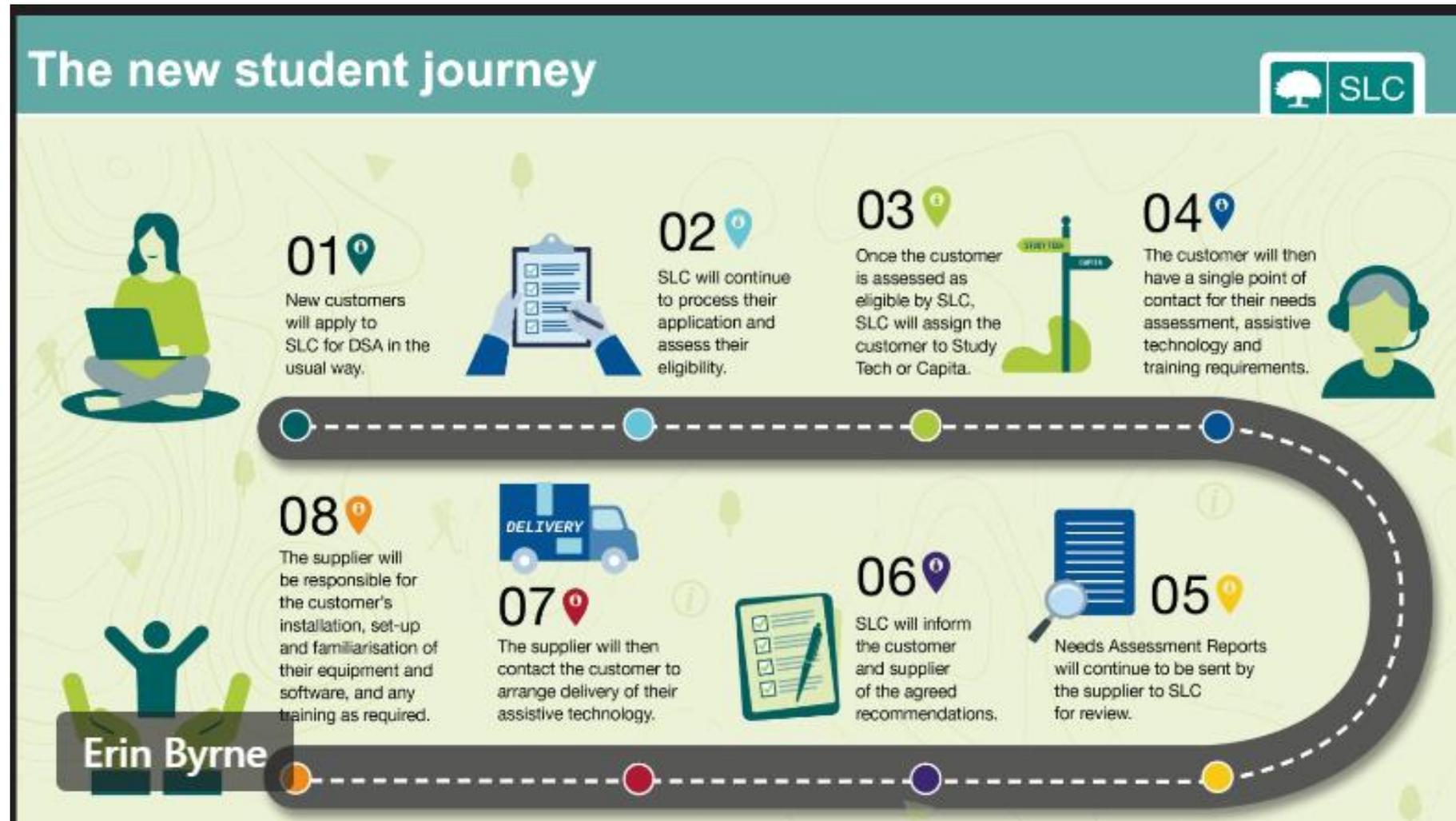
**!** Now pass this form to the medical professional.

The paper application can be found here: [www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms)

# What happens next?

1. you will receive a letter informing you that you are eligible for a Study Needs Assessment.
2. depending on where you live, you will be allocated with a supplier (Capita/StudyTech)
3. you will need to provide evidence – supplier and funding body
4. your supplier will be your one point of contact

# The new student journey



# Alison Jones

Disability Transition Officer  
University of Sheffield

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# Access DSA and higher education support

- Two types of support - DSA and the higher education institutions disability service
- Higher education support will depend on your individual support needs, which course you're on and the support that's available
- Not all higher education institutions have the same types of support so do your research

# Setting up higher education support

- Your university Disability Adviser will put in place academic support based on discussions with you
- The disability service might need to set up some of your DSA support

# Types of support

- Transition events and orientation support
- Referrals for diagnostic assessments e.g., SpLD; autism
- Exam adjustments
- Sharing support information with your academic tutors
- Lecture recordings

# Types of support (continued)

- Access to computer equipment or assistive software
- Support worker assistance (non-DSA) e.g., note takers; orientation support; library support; exam support workers

**Final words:** apply for DSA and contact the disability service to set up support

# Disability Champion

Stacey

University of Sheffield



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# Bursaries and Scholarships



What are they?

**Bursaries** are usually awarded to students based on their personal circumstances

**Scholarships** are achievement or excellence in academics, sports or music

**Unlike student loans these are non-repayable = FREE MONEY!**

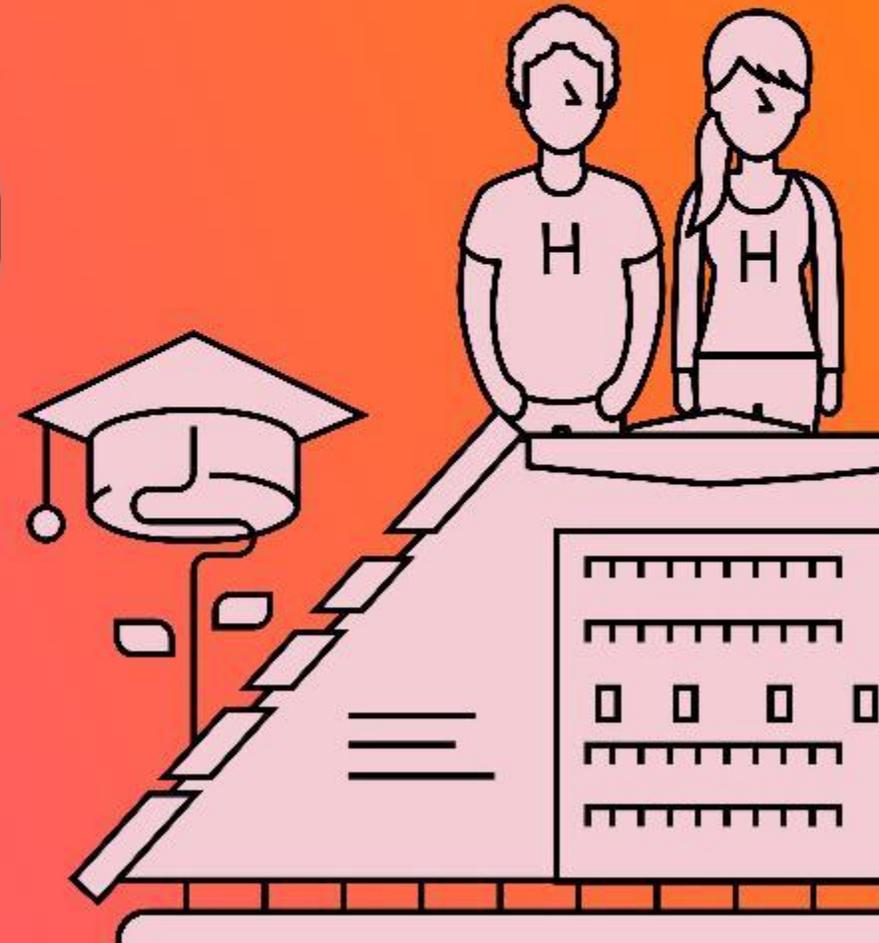
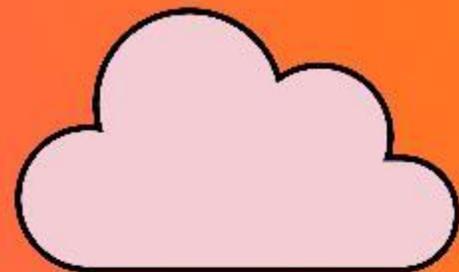
# Sample of Bursaries and Scholarships

**Goldsmiths University of London** - bursaries for students who have a recognised disability that has been disclosed on the UCAS application form. The bursary is £3,000 for 2025 and the offer is 6 of them.

**Sheffield Hallam University** - offer a Student Success Scholarship for priority groups and students with a disability can receive financial awards of anywhere between £600 up to £2,100 - Student Success Scholarship

**Snowdon Trust** – The Trust breaks down barriers for disabled students to achieve their education and employability goals. You can apply to them for grants of up to £5000 to cover disability related costs. <https://www.snowdontrust.org/financial-awards/grants/>

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# What is SHU Progress?

SHU Progress provides support for applicants whose personal circumstances might mean that there are barriers to going to university.

The scheme provides additional support in the year of application and throughout the application process, including the transition to becoming a university student:

- A personal contact at the university
- Referrals to specialist teams
- Exclusive events at the university
- Support with the cost of travelling to the university
- Support with making the best applications to the university, including preparing for interviews
- Exclusive updates through emails and the SHU Progress Members Area
- A contextual offer\* and additional consideration during the Admissions process

## Questions/Contact us

[SHU-Progress@shu.ac.uk](mailto:SHU-Progress@shu.ac.uk)

0114 225 4777

## How to join

A professional (such as a teacher, social worker, support worker etc.) who knows the applicant and their background fills out a quick nomination form here:  
[shu.ac.uk/shuprogress](http://shu.ac.uk/shuprogress)

## Groups we support

- Care Leavers
- Estranged students
- Care experienced students
- Carers
- Disabled students
- Experienced circumstances that have disrupted their Level 3 studies
- Financial difficulties/hardship
- Unable to move away from home area
- Mature students
- Homeless/at risk of homelessness
- Refugees/Asylum seekers
- From a military family
- Military veterans or service leavers
- From a Black British background



SHU Progress Website



# University of Sheffield

Support for Disabled Students

**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

**A WORLD  
TOP 100  
UNIVERSITY**



## Support to help you access and participate at university

Starting university can feel exciting, but it can also be challenging. We are here to help and support disabled applicants to make the transition to the University of Sheffield.

For further information about the transition support for disabled applicants:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/disability/transition-university>

# HeppHUB



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For all our information, resources, webinars etc. please view our website, **HeppHUB** - [www.hepp.ac.uk](http://www.hepp.ac.uk)

- It is full of helpful **advice** with dedicated areas for information specifically for underrepresented groups in higher education (care experienced, young carers, mature, and disabled students)
- If you would like to receive our termly parent and carer newsletter, please register by using the QR code



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# Q & A and Polls



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